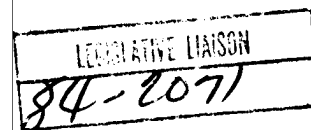


~~CONFIDENTIAL~~OLL/LD
INCOMING

/ /

FRP: .2,3, . . . ,8

25X1



84 3995837 SCR

PAGE 001
TOR: 251714Z APR 84

NC 3995837

RR RUEAIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
UTS6714
RR RUEHC
DE RUEHMO #5175 1161429
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 251428Z APR 84
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7713
INFO RUFHMG/AMCONSUL Leningrad 6857
RUFHMG/AMCONSUL MUNICH 8277
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05175

25X1

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: MOSCOW PENTECOSTALS ANNOUNCE HUNGER STRIKE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. IN AN APRIL 23 APPEAL TO CHERNENKO, A MOSCOW FAMILY OF PENTECOSTALS ANNOUNCED A FOURTEEN-DAY HUNGER STRIKE TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 30. PROTESTING THEIR INABILITY TO RENOUNCE SOVIET CITIZENSHIP AND WORSHIP FREELY, THE FAMILY HAS BEEN TRYING TO EMIGRATE TO THE WEST FOR FOUR YEARS. EMBOFF RECEIVED A COPY OF THEIR APPEAL AND PRESS STATEMENT AND IS FORWARDING THESE TO EUR/SOV. END SUMMARY.
3. IN AN APRIL 23 DECLARATION SENT TO KONSTANTIN CHERNENKO, A MOSCOW FAMILY OF PENTECOSTALS ANNOUNCED A FOURTEEN-DAY HUNGER STRIKE TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 30. ILYA STASKEVICH, HIS WIFE LYDIA, LYDIA'S BROTHER, PAVEL TIMONIN, AND LYDIA'S 64-YEAR-OLD MOTHER, NINA TIMONINA, ARE PROTESTING THE REFUSAL OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO EVEN CONSIDER THEIR RENUNCIATION OF SOVIET CITIZENSHIP. THEY STATE IN THEIR DECLARATION THAT THEY SEEK ONE THING ONLY: "TO BE ABLE TO FREELY AND OPENLY WORSHIP AND LIVE ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURE AND TO BE ABLE TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN IN THE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT".
4. ON JANUARY 11, 1984, THIS FAMILY (INCLUDING THREE MINOR CHILDREN) RENOUNCED SOVIET CITIZENSHIP BY SENDING THEIR PASSPORTS UNDER COVER OF AN APPEAL TO THE SUPREME SOVIET. SOVIET EMIGRATION AUTHORITIES SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED THEM THAT THE SUPREME SOVIET WOULD NOT EVEN CONSIDER THEIR APPEAL FOR RENUNCIATION. MILITIA AND KGB HAVE PRESSURED THE FAMILY ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS OVER RECENT MONTHS IN AN EFFORT TO GET THEM TO TAKE BACK THE PASSPORTS. THE FAMILY HAS PERSISTENTLY REFUSED.
5. THE FAMILY HAS BEEN TRYING TO EMIGRATE TO THE WEST FOR FOUR YEARS. MOST RECENTLY THEY WERE REFUSED SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION IN 1983 TO JOIN HARRY JONES, FLAGSTONE 8502, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78758, WHO HAS LEGALLY ADOPTED LYDIA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

84 3995837 SCR

PAGE 002
TOR: 251714Z APR 84

NC 3995837

AS HIS DAUGHTER AND PROVIDED THE FAMILY WITH LETTERS OF INVITATION ("VYZOV'S"). THEY CLAIM THAT THEIR DESIRE TO EMIGRATE STEMS PRIMARILY FROM THEIR INABILITY TO ESCAPE RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN THE U.S.S.R.

6. LYDIA STASKEVICH TOLD EMBOFF ON APRIL 23 THAT THE HUNGER STRIKE WAS PLANNED TO COINCIDE WITH THE SOVIET MAY DAY CELEBRATION, A "TIME WHEN SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE". SHE WAS PLANNING TO CONTACT VARIOUS PRESS REPRESENTATIVES (MENTIONED WERE NEW YORK TIMES, REUTERS AND BBC). IN A STATEMENT PREPARED FOR THE PRESS, THE FAMILY EXPRESSED ITS EXPECTATION OF A COMING CAMPAIGN AGAINST PENTECOSTALS AFTER THE MAY DAY ACTIVITIES. LYDIA SAID THAT IF THE AUTHORITIES DO NOT REACT TO THE HUNGER STRIKE, SHE WOULD CONTINUE INDEFINITELY ON HER OWN. SHE GAVE EMBOFF A COPY OF HER APPEALS, WHICH WILL BE POUCHED TO EUR/SOV.

7. COMMENT. EMBASSY HAS ENJOYED FREQUENT AND RELIABLE CONTACT WITH THIS FAMILY FOR SOME TIME, AND HAS ESCORTED U.S. SENATORS (BUMPERS, DECONCINI AND ONE OTHER FROM CODEL PELL, AUGUST 1983) TO MEETINGS WITH THEM IN THE PAST. THEY KNEW THE VASHCHENKO FAMILY WELL AND REPORTEDLY CONTINUE TO HAVE CONTACT WITH THEM. END COMMENT.
HARTMAN
END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL